



**State of Florida
Department of Children and Families**

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carroll
Interim Secretary

Bronwyn Stanford
Regional Managing Director

DATE: June 29, 2015

FROM: Sonia De Escobar, Program Manager

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] Foster Home

Please accept this summary as to the events leading up to the review of the license, then revocation process of the [REDACTED] foster home; the process got started after a report was received alleging Mrs. [REDACTED] had [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (violation of Rule 65-C13.029 (1) (b) Florida Administrative Code). This was on September 4, 2014, the investigation was assigned to Broward Sheriff's office, that incident resulted in Mrs. [REDACTED] being arrested and charged [REDACTED]

After learning of the report, an initial staffing was conducted on 9/18/14 and was attended by DCF licensing counselor, DCF Legal counsel, Citrus Health licensing representatives, Our Kids representatives and both foster parents. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The child involved in the incident had been removed immediately. A hold was placed on the foster home license pending outcome of investigation. Also, during this meeting it was agreed that the foster parents would close their home voluntarily.

A second staffing was held shortly after, where it was stated that Mrs. [REDACTED] had moved out of the home, [REDACTED]. The plan seemed to be that Mrs. [REDACTED] would remain out of the home permanently. Once again, present during this staffing were representatives from licensing, legal, Our Kids, Citrus Health, and this time there were representatives from the Guardian office and the case management agency. It was stated during the meeting that Mr. [REDACTED] did not want to close his home and felt the circumstances had changed since Mrs. [REDACTED] was gone [REDACTED]. It was explained during the staffing that a foster home license is issued to the married couple living in the home, and the license was under both their names. In order to change that, the home would have to be closed, and the process started over for the one person who wanted

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to be licensed alone. Further, it was explained that there was an abuse investigation open, and the results would have to be taken into consideration as well (65C-13.023 Florida Administrative Code). It was explained that the Department's investigation and that the criminal investigation were two separate, independent investigations. Mr. [REDACTED] stated he would consider closing the home voluntarily and be licensed under his name. It was stated by licensing counselor that if the home was not voluntarily closed, the Department would proceed with revocation of the license.

[REDACTED]

The foster home remained with a placement hold, with no other children going in while the investigation was on going. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

During a routine visit to the home, the case management agency found that Mrs. [REDACTED] had returned and was present during the visit. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He explained that she could not stay with their daughter any longer. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

It was learned later from Mr. [REDACTED] that the charges against Mrs. [REDACTED] had been dropped by Law Enforcement, he felt that the investigation should be closed as well. It was explained these are separate investigations, and while the criminal investigation is taken into account, the Investigator makes a determination based on their own findings.

[REDACTED]

Because the notice to close voluntarily never happened, the Department consulted with legal counsel that had been present on all staffing, spoke with licensing counselors from the Department and Our Kids, and reached the decision to revoke the license. All had reviewed the findings of the investigation, listened to the 911 call and interaction with law enforcement and interviews with Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]

The foster home was notified of the intent to revoke the foster home license via a certified letter, the violations listed on the letter were:

Rule 65C-13.029(1) (b) of the Florida Administrative Code. It states that it is the responsibility of the licensed out of home caregiver to the child that all children in the home shall be protected from abandonment, exploitation, neglect and abuse. All reports in which the person seeking licensure or re-licensure named as the "caregiver responsible" must be considered for licensing purposes. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Rule 65C-13.030(1) (d) Partnership Plan Agreement, which states that excellent parenting is a reasonable expectation of caregivers.

Further, the participants from Our Kids and licensing had expressed their concerns with the home, the stance taken by Mr. [REDACTED] the lack of understanding and changing decision every time they met.

After the intent to revoke letter was sent, the foster parents were given the opportunity to request an administrative proceeding, the request was received and we are waiting for a hearing date to be set to appear before the assigned Judge.